

To Whom It May Concern,

10-25-11

A2012-57

Please read the letter that states ~~RECEIVED~~ I wish
to convey to you. I, Elaine Smith, P.O. Box 12975
Portland, OR 97207

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Elaine Smith

Received

OCT 31 2011

Office of PAGR

Take a moment close your eyes, imagine being in Northern Upstate New York, on a blustery, snowy winter day, hearing the crunching of snow under the tires, feeling the car sliding on ice as you drive a round trip of eight miles to the nearest Post Office, now imagine this is your mother, father, or grandparents during the winter weather in the North Country, traveling eight miles round trip to get to the Post Office because they missed the rural route carrier and that "payment", "birthday card" or "package" just has to get in the mail today, would you want to think of your elderly relatives on the snow/ice covered roads?

There has been a Post Office in Port Kent for as long as anybody can remember. I realize that everything changes and that has included the growth in the hamlet of Port Kent; we have witnessed first hand new construction of several houses, the increase use of the local golf course, there is the potential for 200 new houses with the completion of the \$8 million water improvement project by the end of 2011. Do you really believe that in the long-term picture it will be more feasible to close the Post Office and provide rural route services whether by mailboxes, cluster boxes or post office boxes in Keeseville?

I understand your dilemma in maintaining a budget and cutting expenses, but what about increasing revenue, as a suggestion this could be done by charging for the post office boxes and the possibility of closing one day per week besides Sunday, I could almost guarantee the residents in Port Kent would rather pay for a post office box and skip one day of receiving mail than to have their Post Office closed.